WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Response to the Scheme of I.T.D.C. for Providing subsidised meals to rural Guests

*5. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 44 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what has been the response to the fifty per cent discount scheme for rural folk in Delhi's Five Star hotels announced by the then Deputy Prime Minister on the last Republic Day and how many people availed of this facility as at the end of July 1991;

(b) whether Government are considering abandoning the scheme; and

(c) what has been the response to the chaupal the ethnic Indian village recreated in Ashok Hotel at New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) I.T.D.C. has the following 5-Star hotels in Delhi:

(1) Ashok Hotel
(2) Hotel Samrat
(3) Qutub Hotel

Till the end of July, 1991, 33 rural guests in total including 20 in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi have availed of this scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 4726 guests patronised the Chaupal Restaurant in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi during the period of its operation from 25-1-1991 to 9-6-1991 when it was closed for summer/monsoon.

Vacant Posts in National Airports Authority

*6. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of posts lying vacant with National Airports Authority categorywise and regionwise;

(b) whether some cases of absorption of employees by NAAI are still pending;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government are going to clear those cases?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There are at present 63 vacancies in the National Airports Authority (20 in Aerodrome discipline, 20 in Communication discipline and 23 in Fire and Safety Services). These vacancies are on All India basis and as such are not related to specific regions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The absorption of a few employees could not take place due to disciplinary proceedings pending against them.

(d) Clearance of pending cases depends on the finalisation of disciplinary proceedings pending against them and results thereof.

New Oil and Gas Policy

*7. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for a new oil and gas policy

in tune with internationalisation of the economy;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in this regard;

(c) whether the exploration and exploitation of the country's oil and gas reserves should also be intensified with the help of international companies; and

(d) if so, what is Government's view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The view of Assocham, as reported in the press, is that there should be a new oil and gas policy. The Government of India has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for intensifying exploration for oil and gas in India.

Restructuring the air India operation Pattern

*8. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India proposes to restructure its pattern of operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Eastern Sector

*9. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are Central Government's projects for developing tourism in eastern sector of the country; and

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the international flights to the eastern sector via Calcutta Airport as a necessary infrastructure for the development of tourism in that region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Department of Tourism has earmarked an amount of Rs. 765.25 lakhs as Central assistance for development of tourism infrastructure in the 4 eastern States of Bihar, Orissa, Sikkim and West Bengal for the year 1991-92. This includes construction of tourist complexes, yatri niwases, wayside amenities, visitor's centres, public conveniences, cafeterias, purchase of adventure equipment and production of publicity material.

(b) To increase international fights to Calcutta, the airport is always offered to foreign airlines while negotiating bilateral agreements with them. Also, compensation payable to Air India, consequent on unilateral operations by foreign airlines to Calcutta, is fixed at a lower side as compared to other airports in India.

Improper Functioning of Air Traffic Control at Bombay airport

*10. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem that appeared in the Times of India of the 8th August, 1991, captioned 'Strange flight control this' wherein it has been stated that air traffic control at Bombay's airport is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to improve the system?